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Kernan Awards More Than \$722,000 in Grants to Train Workers at 10 Northeast Indiana Companies

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Governor Joe Kernan today announced that the Indiana Department of Commerce has awarded 10 northeast Indiana companies training grants from its Skills Enhancement Fund. The grants will support the training of more than 2,500 new and current workers at the companies, as well as a combined \$32 million capital investment.

"We're proud to support Hoosier companies in their efforts to upgrade their facilities and enhance the skills of their employees," said Kernan, who heads the state's economic development efforts as director of the Department of Commerce. "The initiative demonstrated by these companies is in tune with our continuous mission of developing a strong economy, and we are happy to support their efforts."

- **Bohn Aluminum Corp.**, Butler, received a \$37,300 grant to train 98 incumbent and 17 new employees as part of a \$4.2 million investment in equipment upgrades. Founded in 1954, Bohn is an extensive manufacturer of aluminum castings, primarily servicing the automotive industry. The company, which produces a rear knuckle for Delphi Auto and a lower control arm for TRW, will use the grant money to train employees in robotics, problem solving, cell operation and X-Ray programming.
- **Fort Wayne Metals Research**, Ft. Wayne, received \$63,000 in grants to train 266 incumbent and 28 new employees as part of a \$1.9 million investment in building improvements and new equipment. Founded in 1970 to produce wire for the medical industry, Fort Wayne Metals today exists as a leading producer of stainless steel wires for medical devices, including pacemaker leads, endoscopic devices and orthopedic appliances. Training will focus on computer proficiency, anatomy, physics and metallurgy.
- **Guardian Automotive Products Inc.**, Ligonier, was awarded \$136,000 in grants to train 20 new and 457 existing employees following a \$5 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. Founded in 1932, Guardian Automotive is one of the largest global manufacturers of float glass and fabricated glass products for construction and auto applications. Training will emphasize computer and manufacturing skills, team building, system processes and quality control procedures.
- **IMCO Inc.**, Huntington, received \$46,700 to train 145 existing and 16 new employees following a \$300,000 investment in equipment upgrades. IMCO was founded in 1947 as the Indiana Molding Co. Since then, they have evolved into one of the state's most competitive producers of precision-molded industrial rubber products. IMCO will use the grant to help employees develop critical skills such as problem solving, team building and computer proficiency.

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- **MP Steel Indiana LLC**, Kendallville, was awarded \$11,990 in grants to train 34 incumbent and six new employees in conjunction with a \$1.1 million investment in facility expansion and equipment upgrades. An expansion of MP Steel Corp. in Holland, Mich., MP Steel Indiana was established in August 2001 after acquiring all of the assets of Advanced Thermal Technologies. A leader in heat-treating services, MP Steel Indiana will use the grant to train employees in furnace operation, maintenance and quality control.
- **SPX Contech**, Auburn, received \$12,350 in grants to train 30 existing and 10 new employees following a \$1.5 million investment in equipment upgrades. A leading manufacturer of complex die-cast components and forgings for the auto industry, SPX maintains nine U.S. facilities and one international plant. The Auburn, Ind., division of SPX ships more than 20 million tons of aluminum annually. SPX will use the grant to train employees in job-specific skills such as welding, motor controls, blueprint reading and robotics.
- **Steel Dynamics**, Butler, has been awarded \$44,850 in grants to train eight new and 130 incumbent employees following a \$5.1 million investment in equipment upgrades. Founded in Butler, Ind., in 1993, Steel Dynamics is a flat-roll mini-mill, which produces a diversity of steel products. Training will emphasize skills such as troubleshooting, problems solving, team building and operations management.
- **Therma-Tru Corp.**, Butler, received \$177,500 in grants to train 48 new and 546 existing employees as part of a \$7.9 million investment in facility expansion and equipment upgrades. Founded in 1962, Therma-Tru is an industry leader in fiberglass door production. The company, which employs more than 2,500 full-time workers at its five facilities, will use the grant to train employees in areas such as computer proficiency, team building, blueprint reading, electronics and welding.
- **UT Electronic Controls Inc.**, Huntington, received \$171,400 to train 30 new and 562 incumbent employees following a \$4.5 million investment in equipment upgrades. Founded in the early 1970s, UT is a world-class electronics manufacturing facility supplying microprocessor-based controls to a host of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration distributors throughout the world. The training will emphasize conflict resolution, team building, computer training, forklift training, troubleshooting and quality control.
- **Wolf Detroit Envelope Co.**, Angola, was awarded a \$21,300 grant to train nine new and 64 current employees in conjunction with a \$275,000 capital investment in equipment upgrades. Founded in 1899, Wolf is widely recognized as the innovator in envelope-producing technology. The company will use the Commerce grant to train employees in team building, problem solving, ruler interpretation, forklift training and computer skills.

The Department of Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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